

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MADRID 04852 271701Z

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 OMB-01 AF-04 DODE-00 RSR-01

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R 271454Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6524

INFO USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T MADRID 4852

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, UK, GI

SUBJECT: GIBRALTAR

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH THE AMB AUG 23, FOREIGN MINISTER LOPEZ RODO MENTIONED THE PROBLEM OF GIBRALTAR, IMPLYING THAT THIS WOULD BE A MAJOR TOPIC OF HIS ADDRESS TO THE UNGA ON SEP 25. HE AGAIN SAID THAT THE US COULD USE ITS GREAT INFLUENCE WITH THE UK TO CAUSE THE LATTER TO CHANGE ITS NEGATIVE ATTITUDE. THE AMB REPEATED THE US POSITION OF NEUTRALITY ON THE ISSUE, NOTING THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY PASSED THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REQUEST TO THE SECRETARY AND RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF THE U.S. STAND. THE FOREIGN MINISTER THEN ASKED THAT THE NEW SECRETARY BE APPRISED OF HIS REQUEST. (THIS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE ONE OF THE MAJOR TOPICS AT THE UNGA MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY).

2. LOPEZ RODO SAID HE EXPECTED TO SEE U.K. AMBASSADOR RUSSELL ON AUGUST 25 AND HOPED AMBASSADOR RUSSELL WOULD HAVE SOME U.K. PROPOSALS THEN. HE THOUGHT RUSSELL UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM AS BEING ONE OF SOVEREIGNTY FOR THE SPANISH,
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SECRET

PAGE 02 MADRID 04852 271701Z

AND OF PEOPLE FOR THE BRITISH, WHICH HE BELIEVES COULD BE

RESOLVED, BUT BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND IT.
SPAIN IS WILLING TO TURN THE BASE BACK TO THE BRITISH IMMEDIATELY
ON A LONG TERM BASIS. A GIBRALTAR BASE IS OF NO VALUE TO
EUROPE IF IT DOES NOT HAVE SPANISH SUPPORT, HE SAID, AND U.S.
SHOULD CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE POSITION FOR EFFECTIVE
DEFENSE OF THE WEST.
RIVERO

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NNN

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